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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Encampment at Strakonice

PLACE ACQUIRED
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DATE (OF INFO.) Nov 1953

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1. There is a camp 22 km southwest of Strakonice, on the road to Zdik. Aside from a tent area there are 12 permanent barracks.
2. The 1029th PTP Battalion is stationed at the camp. The men wear military uniforms but without insignia of rank or arm. This battalion is under the Strakonice command, and is commanded by 1st Lt. Komopac. It has a "work" of 12, a battalion staff of 50, and administrative command of 20, and five labor groups each of 90 to 100 men. Commanders of the labor groups are active Communist NCOs. Only the officers and group commanders have weapons.
3. In Oct 52, 1,200 men joined the unit and were given a three week basic training course at the camp, although without weapons. The training included marching and military formations, police of the camp and barracks, service regulations and political training. About half of the men are Czechs, a quarter Slovaks and something less than a quarter Sudeten Germans. They are unhappy and embittered. Labor conditions are bearable, but everything is handled in a strict and unfriendly manner. The men work an eight-hour day, but two or three hours additional work within the camp are required.
4. The battalion is occupied with important military works in the area between Strakonice, Ckyně and Zdik, where the Armastov trust has been operating. Armastov has used 300 engineers and top level technicians, and a large number of trucks. The labor battalion is used only for hand work of lesser importance.
5. The jobs undertaken include the construction of a military airfield near Vimperk Draining, levelling and other ground work are complete. A connecting road to this airfield is being built from Ckyně. Concrete hangars are being erected at the northern edge of the field, and 10 large barracks are being set up in a wood near the field.

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